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Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 SOE-02 DODE-00
SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 PM-05 /099 W
----------102156 150440Z /16
R 150322Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO DOE GERMANTOWN MD
DOE WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7894

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 TOKYO 08627

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS; TECH, JA
SUBJECT: DISCUSSIONS DOE REPS WITH PNC ON REPROCESSING PLANT STATUS AND PLANS

DOE FOR CUNNINGHAM, SIEVERING, IA

REF: TOKYO 7894#

A. SUMMARY:

1. J. LEARY AND W. HENOCH MET WITH PNC PRESIDENT SEGAWA, VICE PRESIDENT KANAIWA, DIRECTOR NAKAMURA, DIRECTOR WATANABE, AND STAFF ON MAY 11, 1978. ATMOSPHERE WAS VERY CORDIAL, DISCUSSION VERY DIRECT.

2. PNC HAS PROCESSED 3.3 TONNES JPDR FUEL AND 4.7 TONNES FUKUSHIMA-I-1 BWR FUEL. HAVE STARTED THIRD CAMPAIGN ON 6 TONNES OF HIGHER BURNUP MIHAMA-2 PWR FUEL. AT PRESENT 23 KG OF PRODUCT IN STORAGE AS NITRATE SOLUTION. WARRANTY TESTS SCHEDULED FOR JULY-AUGUST 1978.

3. PNC HAS COMPLETED SEVEN COPROCESSING DEVELOPMENT TESTS IN OTL, CONFIDENTIAL

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BUT HAVE NOT ESTABLISHED CONDITIONS TO ACHIEVE COPROCESSING OBJECTIVES.

4. PNC APPEARS CONFIDENT REGARDING CO-CONVERSION BY THEIR NEW MICROWAVE HEATING CODENITRATION PROCESS BEING TESTED WITH URANIUM ONLY SOLUTIONS AT TOKAI WORKS. PARALLEL EFFORT ON FLUIDIZED BED CODENITRATION BEING DONE BY MITSUBISHI METAL CORP.

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5. STRONG INTEREST IN US/JAPAN JOINT EFFORT ON US COPRECAL PROCESS EXPRESSED BY NAKAMURA IN WASHINGTON MEETING WITH DOE ON MARCH 24, 1978 DOES NOT NOW APPEAR TO BE SHARED BY SEGAWA OR DIRECTOR WATANABE WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CO-CONVERSION. PNC PROVIDED DRAFT OF THEIR PROPOSAL, "DOE/PNC CO-CONVERSION, TECHNOLOGY EXCHANGE PROGRAM" BASED ON PARALLEL DEVELOPMENT BY PNC AND DOE WITH EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON EQUITABLE BASIS WITHOUT MONETARY PAYMENT. TIMING OF EXCHANGE OF INTERIM INFORMATION TO BE DECIDED JOINTLY, WITH OVERALL

EVALUATION BY SEPTEMBER 1979.

6. DOE REPS BELIEVE IT URGENT THAT US DEVELOP STRONG WORKING RELA-TIONSHIP WITH JAPANESE COPROCESSING AND CO-CONVERSION DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES TO ASSURE TECHNICAL BASIS FOR THIS OPTION FOR TOKAI PLANT BY SEPTEMBER 1979, AND TO ASSURE TECHNICAL BASIS FOR OPTION IN INFCE WG. 4 ALTERNATIVE REPROCESSING SCHEMES WHERE JAPANESE HAVE LEADING ROLE.

7. PNC SUPPORTS DOE PROPOSAL FOR A WASTE MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP UNDER EXISTING LMFBR AGREEMENT. EXPECT THAT UMBRELLA AGREEMENT ON WASTE MANAGEMENT BY GOJ/STA WILL CONTINUE VERY SLOW DEVELOPMENT.

8. A FRENCH-GERMAN TEAM IS EXPECTED SOON IN TOKYO TO DISCUSS WITH JAPANESE JOINT COOPERATION AGREEMENT ON LMFBR DEVELOPMENT. END SUMMARY.
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B. LEARY AND HENOCH MET ON MAY 11, 1978 WITH PNC PRESIDENT SEGAWA, VP KANAIWA, DIRECTOR REPROCESSING NAKAMURA, DIRECTOR WATANABE AND STAFF TO DISCUSS CURRENT STATUS OF COPROCESSING AND CO-CONVERSION AS WELL AS STATUS OF TOKAI-MURA REPROCESSING PLANT OPERATIONS.

C. SEGAWA STRESSED JAPAN INTEREST IN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH US ON REPROCESSING IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE MUTUALLY AGREED NUCLEAR WEAPON NON-PROLIFERATION GOALS BUT STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF SPENT FUEL REPROCESSING TO JAPAN'S ENERGY RESOURCE BASE. SEGAWA DESCRIBED VISIT FROM GE AND PNC LACK OF INTEREST IN THREE-PHASED JOINT PROJECT PROPOSED BY GE AIMED AT PNC FUNDING GE IN PHASE 2 TO INSTALL COPRECAL CONVERSION EQUIPMENT AT THE TOKAI-MURA WORKS.

D. SEGAWA AND NAKAMURA MADE OBVIOUS POINT THAT COPROCESSING WOULD BE EASIER IN A PLANT BUILT FOR THIS PROCESS THAN TO TRY TO FIT IT TO A PLANT DESIGNED FOR CONVENTIONAL REPROCESSING. NAKAMURA ARGUED THAT THEY SHOULD NOT PLAN TO MODIFY THI TOKAI-MURA PLANT EQUIPMENT, BUT THAT COPROCESSING DEVELOPMENT SHOULD BE AIMED AT PROCESS CHEMISTRY CHARGES ONLY. THEREFORE THEY ARE THINKING OF A TWO-PRONGED APPROACH TO A) CONDUCT R&D ON COPROCESSING CHEMISTRY IN OTL AND, B) EVALUATE THE FEASIBILITY OF MODIFYING THE MAIN PLANT

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IN CASE THIS IS DECIDED JOINTLY TO BE THE BEST COURSE.

E. WATANABE INDICATED PNC ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT JAPANESE CODENITRATION PROCESSING POTENTIAL. FLUIDIZED BED TESTS AT MITSUBISHI METAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE AND MICROWAVE HEATING TESTS BY PNC AT TOKAI-MURA APPEAR TO BE ENCOURAGING ALTHOUGH ALL WORK TO DATE HAS BEEN ONLY ON URANIUM SOLUTIONS. PNC PRESENTED A DRAFT COUNTER PROPOSAL TO THAT MADE RECENTLY BY GE. THE PNC PLAN IS MORE LIMITED IN SCOPE, IS

NOTE BY OCT: (#) REF NOT RECEIVED IN DEPARTMENT.

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TARGETED FOR A SEPTEMBER 1979 DECISION DATE, AND DOES NOT INVOLVE JAPAN FUNDING ANY WORK BY GE. RECOMMEND URGENT CONSIDERATION OF JAPANESE PROPOSAL AND CONSIDERATION OF MECHANISM FOR EARLY IMPLEMENTATION, POSSIBLY UNDER AEGIS OF JOINT US/JAPAN COMMUNIQUE OF SEPTEMBER 12, 1977 ON TOKAI REPROCESSING FACILITY.

F. ON RELATED SUBJECT, SEGAWA INDICATED GE HAD APPROACHED PNC ON POSSIBLE COOPERATIVE EFFORT ON 600 MWE LMFBR DESIGN STUDY. SEGAWA STATED PNC HEAVILY COMMITTED TO DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION OF 300 MWE LMFBR MONJU AND CANNOT SPARE RESOURCES FOR OTHER EFFORT. NEWSPAPERS THIS DATE CARRIED STORY ABOUT IMPENDING JAPAN-FRENCH-GERMAN COOPERATIVE LMFBR AGREEMENT EXPECTED TO BE CONCLUDED IN JUNE, 1978 BETWEEN PNC, CEA & KFK. AGREEMENT REPORTED TO INCLUDE REACTOR PHYSICS, PLUTONIUM FUEL, SODIUM TECHNOLOGY AND SAFETY. MANSFIELD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, NUCLEAR FUELS, NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TOKYO08627
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780204-1034
Format: TEL
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780557/aaaabwcs.tel
Line Count: 166
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Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 TOKYO 7894
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2684932
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DISCUSSIONS DOE REPS WITH PNC ON REPROCESSING PLANT STATUS AND PLANS DOE FOR CUNNINGHAM, SIEVERING, IA
TAGS: TECH, JA, PNC
To: DOE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9460c19c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014